

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

FROM NEELEY (AGR. NO: PRC 8003)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR CH
SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS: CROP CONDITIONS IN PRC; CODE 24M
ALERT

1. SUMMARY: ON THE WHOLE, THE PRC WINTER WHEAT CROP APPEARS TO BE IN GOOD CONDITION IN AREAS OBSERVED. WHEAT HAS MADE MORE GROWTH THAN IS USUAL AT THIS TIME OF YEAR AND COULD SUFFER FROM WINTER KILL SHOULD LOW TEMPERATURES OCCUR. SCATTERED POOR FIELDS WERE SEEN IN EVERY PROVINCE VISITED BUT THESE WERE MOSTLY ON POOR LAND. THERE APPEARED TO BE LESS AREA PLANTED TO WINTER WHEAT THAN LAST YEAR IN HUNAN AND HUPEH PROVINCES. END SUMMARY.

2. USLO OFFICER TRAVELED BY TRAIN TO SHIHCHIACHUANG, HUPEH PROVINCC, CHENGCHOU, HUNAN PROVINCE, CANTON AND HONG KONG ON
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JANUARY 21 THROUGH 25.

3. WINTER WHEAT IN AREA NORTH OF PAOTING, HUPEH PROVINCE, HAD GENERALLY GOOD STANDS BUT WITH LESS GROWTH THAN AROUND PEKING. WHEAT DORMANT, BUT NO SIGNS OF WINTER KILL. SCATTERED FIELDS WITH POOR STANDS WERE OBSERVED.

4. IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF PAOTING MOST OF LAND PLANTED TO WHEAT. MOST FIELDS SHOWED GOOD GROWTH. FURTHER SOUTH IN VERY SANDY AREAS, STANDS WERE RATHER POOR AND GROWTH NOT UNIFORM. JUST NORTH OF SHIHCHIACHUANG, WHEAT HAD GOOD GROWTH WITH EVEN, UNIFORM STANDS AND BRIGHT GREEN COLOR.

5. ON TWO COMMUNES VISITED NEAR SHIHCHIACHUNG WINTER WHEAT WAS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. PLANTS WERE STRONGLY TILLERED, HAD GOOD GROWTH, WERE BARELY DORMANT, AND SHOWED NO EVIDENCE OF WINTER KILL. SEVERE COLD WEATHER COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS.

6. ON THE FLAT LANDS SOUTH OF SHIHCHIACHUNG MOST OF THE LAND SOWN TO WHEAT AND THE CROP CONDITION WAS EXCELLENT. FURTHER SOUTH IN THE ROLLING SANDY AREA WHEAT FIELDS SHOWED UNEVEN GROWTH AND UNEVEN STANDS WITH ONLY ABOUT HALF OF LAND IN WHEAT.

7. NEAR HANTAU, HUPEH PROVINCE, MOST OF THE WHEAT WAS VERY GOOD. STANDS WERE THICK AND GOOD GROWTH HAD BEEN MADE. WHEAT APPEARED TO BE EMERGING FROM WINTER DORMANCY.

8. WHEAT ON A COMMUNE NEAR CHENGCHOU WAS ABOUT 8 INCHES TALL, LUSH GREEN, AND WELL TILLERED. STANDS AND GROWTH WERE UNIFORM. WHEAT APPEARED TO HAVE NEVER BEEN DORMANT.

9. NORTH OF LOHO, HUNAN PROVINCE, ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF FARM LAND WAS IN WHEAT. ABOUT HALF OF FIELDS WERE OF GOOD COLOR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNIFORM AND WELL GROWN. ON HALF OF THE FIELDS, THE STANDS WERE UNEVEN AND GROWTH NOT UNIFORM.

10. FROM LOHO TO THE HUAI HO (RIVER) 70 TO 90 PERCENT OF LAND WAS IN WHEAT. MOST FIELDS OF WHEAT WERE GOOD, BUT GROWTH NOT SO ADVANCED AS FURTHER NORTH.

11. BETWEEN THE HUAI HO AND HSINYANG, HUNAN PROVINCE, ONLY 30 PERCENT OF CULTIVATED LAND IN WHEAT, WHICH WAS GOOD BUT YOUNG. A FEW UPLAND FIELDS TRANSPLANT IFUOO RAPE. ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF CULTIVATED LAND IN PADDY FIELDS OF WHICH HALF HAD BEEN PLOWED AND HALF WAS IN CLOVER.

12. BETWEEN HSINYANG AND THE HUNAN-HUPEH BORDER MOST OF THE FARM LAND HAS BEEN MADE INTO PADDY FIELDS. ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THESE FIELDS WERE SOWN TO WHEAT WHICH WAS IN VERY GOOD CONDITION, 30 PERCENT WERE PLOWED AND 30 PERCENT WERE STILL IN CLOVER FOR GREEN MANURE. A FEW UPLAND FIELDS WERE SOWN TO WHEAT, BROAD BEANS AND RAPE -- CONDITION FAIR TO GOOD.

13. FROM THE HUNAN-HUPEH BORDER TO WUHAN, HUPEH PROVINCE, ALL SUITABLE LAND HAS BEEN MADE INTO PADDY FIELDS. OF THESE

PADDY FIELDS, ABOUT 20 PERCENT WERE IN WHEAT AND TEN PERCENT IN RAPE SEED AND BROAD BEANS -- ALL IN GOOD GROWTH. WHEAT AND RAPE FIELDS WILL LATER BE PLANTED TO RICE. THE REMAINING 70 PERCENT OF THE PADDY FIELDS WERE ABOUT HALF PLOWED AND HALF UNPLOWED. UNPLOWED PORTION COVERED WITH CLOVER. CLOVER NOT AS TALL OR THICK AS EXPECTED FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR. SOME HILL-SIDES PLANTED TO TEA - BOTH OLD AND NEW PLANTATIONS.

14. BETWEEN WUHAN AND THE HUNAN BORDER 90 PERCENT OF CULTIVATED LAND WAS IN RICE FIELDS. ABOUT ONE THIRD OF RICE LAND HAS BEEN PLOWED -- THE REST WAS IN CLOVER. ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF LAND PLANTED TO WHEAT AND RAPE -- MOSTLY UNIMPROVED UPLAND FIELDS. MANY TEA PLANTATIONS OBSERVED ON THE HILLS. IT SEEMED THAT LESS WHEAT WAS PLANTED IN THIS AREA THAN LAST YEAR. WHEAT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RAPE AND CLOVER GENERALLY GOOD.

15. AROUND YUEHYANG, HUNAN PROVINCE, AND SOUTH TOWARD CHANGSHA, HUNAN PROVINCE, ALMOST ALL CULTIVATED LAND WAS IN PADDY FIELDS. MOST PADDY FIELDS UNPLOWED AND IN CLOVER. CLOVER GROWTH APPEARED VERY GOOD. A FEW UNLEVELED UPLAND FIELDS AND A FEW TERRACES PLANTED TO RAPE AND BROAD BEANS - CONDITION GOOD. ALMOST NO WHEAT SEEN. THIS AREA ALMOST TOTALLY DEVOTED TO A CLOVER - RICE - RICE ROTATION.

16. JUST NORTH OF CANTON ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF PADDY LAND SOWN TO WHEAT. REMAINDER OF PADDY LAND IN CLOVER. WHEAT ABOUT 12 - 15 INCHES TALL AND MOSTLY VIGOROUS. CLOVER EXCELLENT. SCATTERED FIELDS PLANTED TO RAPE. RAPE WELL GROWN AND IN FULL BLOOM.

17. BETWEEN CANTON AND THE BORDER CROSSING TO HONG KONG, ABOUT 20 TO 30 PERCENT OF LAND WAS IN WHEAT. SOME FIELDS WERE ONLY 8 - 10 INCHES TALL WITH GOOD STANDS AND VIGOROUS, UNIFORM GROWTH. OTHER FIELDS WERE 15 TO 20 INCHES TALL, AND FULLY HEADED. YOUNGER PLANTINGS MOSTLY GOOD. OLDER PLANTINGS HAD MOSTLY RATHER THIN STANDS AND UNEVEN GROWTH. SUGAR CANE HARVEST WAS IN PROGRESS. VERY LITTLE RAPE OBSERVED IN THIS AREA. DEAN

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